

XI. Commendations and Recommendations

Thompson Rivers University Initial Candidacy Evaluation

Commendations

1. The evaluation committee commends Thompson Rivers University's authentic and genuine response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report. Evidence that TRU has embraced the report includes: the establishment of a Gathering Place; an Executive Director of Aboriginal Education who reports directly to the president; the Knowledge Makers program; the School of Nursing's "Enacting a Respectful Response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action" project; and efforts to embed Aboriginal ways of knowing across the curriculum.
2. The evaluation committee commends the Thompson Rivers University for its commitment to fostering intercultural understanding through its robust international program and attention to the needs of its diverse student body, both of which contribute significantly to efforts to increase diversity and create a culture of inclusion.
3. The evaluation committee commends Thompson Rivers University for ongoing improvements to the Open Learning Centre, which is well-managed and growing its enrollments in quality courses. It is contributing to campus efforts in course outcomes designations and improvement by sharing their instructional design faculty with willing campus faculty and departments. The Open Learning Centre collects a substantial amount of student performance data and is planning to incorporate analytic tools to enable the staff to identify at risk students, intervene, and consequently increase student success.
4. The evaluation committee commends Thompson Rivers University for its commitment to environmental sustainability, including their early adoption of the STARS (Sustainability, Tracking, Assessment and Rating System) and recent achievement of a Gold rating.

Recommendations

1. Recommendation, Standard 1.A.2: The evaluation committee recommends that Thompson Rivers University improves its definition of mission fulfillment, and, guided by that definition, articulates measurable institutional accomplishments or outcomes that represent an acceptable threshold or extent of mission fulfillment.
2. Recommendation, Standards 2.C.9 and 2.C.10: The evaluation committee recommends that the General Education component of the Thompson Rivers University's baccalaureate degree programs and transfer associate degree programs have identifiable and assessable learning outcomes that are stated in relation to the institution's mission and learning outcomes for those programs.
3. Recommendation, Standard 2.G.5: The evaluation committee recommends that data and systems essential to the operations of Thompson Rivers University be backed up in a manner that protects the data and systems from natural or human-caused disaster. In addition the committee recommends that Thompson Rivers University evaluates and implements options to sustainably replace end-of-life network infrastructure technologies.
4. Recommendation, Standard 3.A.1., 3.A.2., 3.A.3., and 3.A.4.: The evaluation committee recommends that the Thompson Rivers University continues and improves its planning to ensure

that it is systematic, integrated, and comprehensive; that the planning process is inclusive and broad-based; and that the plans are informed by the collection and analysis of appropriate data and articulate institution and unit level priorities that guide decisions on resource allocation.

5. Recommendation, Standards 4.A.3. and 4.B.2: The evaluation committee recommends that Thompson Rivers University builds upon its efforts to document student learning outcomes by developing appropriate measurements of student learning, analyzing assessment results, and implementing action plans in a cycle of continuous improvement.